

DECLARATION OF THE Lords and Commons IN PARLIAMENT.

With the Additionall Reasons, last
presented to his MAJESTY.

Die Sabbathi, 12 Martii, 1641.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled,
That the Declaration, with the Additionall Reasons last
presented to his Majesty, shall bee forthwith printed and
published.

To Bryanne, Cleric. Parl.

H. Elsing, Clav. Parl. D. Com.

Whereunto is annexed His Majesties Speech
to the Committee, the ninth of March, 1641.
when they presented the Declaration of both
Houses of Parliament at *New-market.*

Printed in the year, 1641.



The Declaration.

May it please your Majestie,

Although the Expressions in your Majesties Message of the second of this instant March, do give just cause of sorrow to us your faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament, yet it is not without some mixture of confidence and hope, considering they proceeded from the mis-apprehension of our Actions and Intentions, which having no ground of Truth or Reality, may by your Majesties Justice and Wisdome bee removed when your Majestie shall bee fully informed, that those feares and jealousies of ours, which your Majestie thinks to be causlesse, and without any just ground, doe necessarily and clearely arise from those dangers and distempers, into which the mischeivous and evill Counsels about you have brought this Kingdom; And that those other feares and jealousies, by which your favour, your Royall Presence, and confidence have been withdrawn from your Parliament, have no foundation or subsistence in any action, intention, or mis-carriage of ours, but are meerey grounded upon the falshood and malice of those, who, for the supporting and fomenting their own wicked designs, against the Religion and Peace of the Kingdom, doe seek to deprive your Majesty of the Strength and Affection of your People, them of your Grace and Protection, and thereby to subject both your Royall Person, and the whole Kindom to ruine and destruction.

To satisfie your Majesties judgement and Conscience in both these points, we desire to make a clear and free Declaration of the causes of our feares and jealousies, which we offer to your Majestie, in these particulars :

1 That the design of altering Religion in this, and in your other Kingdoms, hath been potently carried on by those in greatest Authority about you for divers ycerstogether : the Queens Agent at *Rome*, and the Popes Agent or Nuncio here, are not onely evidences of this design, but have been great Actors in it.

2 That the Warre with *Scotland*, was procured to make way for this intent, and chiefly invited and fomented by the Papists, and others popishly affected; whereof we have many evidences, especially their free and generall contribution to it.

3 That the Rebellion in *Ireland* was framed and contrived here in *England*; and that the English Papists should have risen about the same time; we have severall testimonies, and advertisements from *Ireland*; and that it is a common speech amongst the Rebels, wherewith concurre other Evi-

dences and observations of the suspicions, meetings, and consultations, the tumultuary and seditious carriage of those of that Religion in divers parts of this Kingdom, about the time of the breaking out of the Irish Rebellion; The deposition of *O-Connelly*, the Information of *Mr. Cole* Minister, the Letter of *Trestram Whitcombe*, the deposition of *Thomas Crant*, and many others which we may produce, do all agree in this. The publike Declaration of the Lords, Gentlemen, and others of the Pale, that they would joyn with the Rebels, whom they call the Irish Army, or any other, to recover unto His Majestie His Royall Prerogative, wrested from him by the Puritan faction in the Houses of Parliament in *England*, and to maintain the same against all others; as also to maintaine Episcopall Jurisdiction, and the lawfulness thereof; these two being the Quarrels, upon which His Majesties late Army in the North should have been incited against us.

The great cause we have to doubt that that late design stiled, *The Queens pious intention*, was for the alteration of Religion in this Kingdom; for successe whereof, the Popes Nuncio, the Count *Rosetti* injoynd Fastings and Praying to be observed every Week by the English Papists; which appeared to us by one of the Originall Letters, directed by him to a Priest in *Lancashire*.

The boldness of the *Irish* Rebels, in affirming they do nothing but by Authority from the King; That they call themselves the *Queens Army*: That the prey or booty which they take from the English, they mark with the *Queens Mark*: That their purpose was to come to *England*, after they had done in *Ireland*, and sundry other things of this kinde, proved by *O-Connelly*, and divers others, especially in the fore-mentioned Letter from *Trestram Whitcombe* Major of *Kinsale*, to his Brother *Benjamin Whitcombe*, wherein there is this passage, That many other strange speeches they utter, about Religion, and our Court of *England*, which he dares not commit to paper.

The manifold attempts to provoke Your Majesties late Army, and the Army of the *Scots*, and to raise a faction in the City of *London*, and other parts of the Kingdom: That those who have been Actors in those businesses, have had their depeudance, their countenance, and encouragement from the Court: Witnesse the Treason whereof Master *Jermyn* and others stand accused, who was transported beyond Sea by Warrant under Your Majesties Hand, after Your Majesty had given Assurance to Your Parliament, that Your Majesty had laid a strict command upon all your Servants, that none of them should depart from Court: And that dangerous Petition, delivered to Captain *Legg* by your Majesties own Hand, accompanied with a Direction, Signed with *C. R.*

The false and scandalous accusation against the Lord *Kimbolton*, and the five Members of the House of Commons, tendred to the Parliament by your Majesties own command, endeavoured to be justified in the City, by your own presence and perswasion, and to be put in execution upon their

persons, by your Majesties demand of them in the House of Commons, in so terrible and violent a manner, as farre exceeded all former breaches of Priviledges of Parliament, acted by your Majesty, or any of your Predecessours: And whatsoever your own intentions were, divers bloody and desperate persons which attended your Majesty, discovered their affections and resolutions to have massacred and destroyed the Members of that House, if the absence of those persons accused had not, by Gods providence stoppt the giving of that word which they expected, for the setting them upon that barbarous and bloody act: The Lifting of so many Officers, Soldiers, and others, putting them into pay, and under command of Colonels, feasting and carrelling them in an unusuall manner at White-hall, thereby maintaining them in the violent assaults, and other injuries which they offered to divers of your Subjects, comming that way, in a lawfull and peaceable manner: the carrying them out of towne; after which they were told by the Lord Digby, That the King removed on purpose, that they might not be trampled in the dirt: And keeping them so long in pay: Endeavouring to engage the Gentlemen of the Innes of Court in the same course The plotting and designing of a perpetuall guard about your Majesty: the labouring to infuse into your Majesties Subjects an evill opinion of the Parliament, through the whole Kingdome, and other Symptomes of a disposition of raising Arms, and dividing your people by a Civill warre; in which combustion Ireland must needs be lost, and this Kingdome miserably wasted and consumed, if not wholly ruined and destroyed.

That after a Vote had passed in the House of Commons, declaring, That the Lord Digby had appeared in a warlike maner at Kingston upon Thames, to the terrour and fright of your Majesties good Subiects, and disturbance of the publike peace of the Kingdome; and that therefore the Lords should be moved to require his attendance; he should nevertheless be of that credit with your Majesty, as to bee sent away by your own Warrant to Sir Job. Penington, to land him beyond the Sea: from whence he vented his own trayterous conceptions; that your Majesty should declare your self, & retire to a place of strength in this Kingdom, as if your Majesty could not be safe among your people: And withall, took that transcendent boldnesse to write to the Queen, offering to entertain correspondency with her Majesty by cyphers, intimating some service which he might do in those parts, for which he desired your Majesties instructions; whereby in probability he intended the procuring of some forraign force, to strengthen your Majesty in that condition, into which he would have brought you. Which false and malicious counsell and advice, we have great cause to doubtr, made too deep an impression in your Majesty, considering the course you are pleased to take, of absenting your self from your Parliament, and carrying the Prince with you: which seems to expresse purpose in your Majesty, to keep your selfe in a readinesse for the doing of it.

(3)
The manifold advertisements which we have had from *Rome, Venice, Paris*, and other parts, that they still expect that your Majesty has some great designe in hand, for the altering of Religion, the breaking the neck of your Parliament: That you will yet finde means to compasse that design: that the Popes *Nuncio* hath solicited the Kings of *France* and *Spain* to lend your Majesty foure thousand men a peece to help to maintain your Royalty against the Parliament: And this forraign force as it is the most pernicious and malignant design of all the rest, so we hope it is and shall alwayes be farthest from your Majesties thoughts, because no man can beleeye you will give up your people and Kingdom to be spoiled by strangers, if you did not likewise intend to change both your own profession in Religion, and the publick profession of the Kingdom, that so you might still be more assured of those forraign States of the Popish Religion, for your future support and defence.

These are some of the grounds of our feares and jealousies, which made us so earnestly to implore your royall authority and protection for our defence and security, in all the wayes of humility and submission; which being denied by your Majesty, seduced by evill counsell, we doe with sorrow for the great and inavoidable misery and danger, which thereby is like to fall upon your own person, and your Kingdoms, apply our selves to the use of that power for the security and defence of both, which by the fundamentall Lawes and constitutions of this Kingdom resides in us; yet still resolving to keep our selves within the bounds of faithfulness and allegiance to your sacred Person and your Crown, so as to the second sort of jealousies and feares of us, exprest by your Majesty, we shall give a shorter, but as true and as faithfull an answer.

Whereas your Majesty is pleased to say, that for your residence neer the Parliament, you wish it might be so safe, and honourable, that you had no cause to absent your self from *Whitehall*: This we take as the greatest breach of priviledge of Parliament that can be offered, as the heaviest misery to your self, and imputation upon us that can be imagined, and the most mischievous effect of evill counsell; it roots up the strongest foundation of the safety and honour which your Crown affords. It seemes as much as may be, to cast upon the Parliament such a charge, as is inconsistent with the nature of that great Council, being the body wherof your Majesty is the head; it strikes at the very being, both of King and Parliament, depriving your Majesty in your own apprehension of their fidelity, and them of your protection, which are the mutual bands & supports of government & subjection.

We have, according to your Majesties desire, laid our hands upon our hearts, we have askt our selves in the strictest examination of our consciences, we have searcht our affections, our thoughts, considered our actions, and we finde none that can give your Majesty any just occasion to absent your self from *Whitehall*, and the Parliament, but that you may with more

honour and safety continue there, than in any other place.

Your Majesty laies a general tax upon us; if you will be graciously pleased to let us know the particulars, we shall give a cleer and satisfactory answer: But what hope can we have of ever giving your Majesty satisfaction, when those particulars which you have been made beleieve were true, yet being produced and made known to us, appeared to be false; and your Majesty notwithstanding will neither punish, nor produce the authors, but go on to contract new jealousies and fears, upon general & uncertain grounds, affording us no means or possibility of particular answer, to the clearing of our selves; for proof whereof we beseech your Majesty to consider these Instances.

The Speeches alledged to be spoken in a meeting of divers Members of both Houses at Kensington, concerning a purpose of restraining the Queene and Prince; which after it was denyed and disavowed, yet your Majesty refused to name the Authors, though humbly desired by both Houses.

The report of Articles framed against the Queens Majesty, given out by some of neer relation to the Court; but when it was publicly and constantly disclaimed, the credit seemed to be withdrawn from it; but the Authors being kept safe, will alwayes be ready for exploits of the same kind; where-with your Majesty and the Queene will bee often troubled, if this course be taken to cherish and secure them in such wicked and malicious slanders.

The heavey charge and accusation of the Lord Kimbolton, and the five members of the House of Commons, who refused no triall or examination, which might stand with the Priviledge of Parliament; yet no Authours, no witnesses produced, against whom they may have reparation for the great injury and infamy cast upon them, notwithstanding three severall Petitions of both Houses, and the authority of two Acts of Parliament vouched in the last of those Petitions.

We beseech your Majesty to consider in what state you are; how easie and fair a way you have to happinesse, honour, greatnesse plenty, and security, if you will joyn with the Parliament, and your faithful Subjects, in defence of the Religion & publike good of the Kingdom: This is all we expect from you, and for this we shall return to you, our lives, fortunes, and uttermost endeavours, to support your Majesty, your just Sovereignty & power over us. But it is not words that can secure us in these our humble desires; we cannot but too well, and sorrowfully remember, what gracious Messages we had from you this summer, when with your privacy the bringing up of the Army was in agitation; we cannot but with the like affections recall to our minds, how not two daies before you gave directions for the above mentioned action, & your own comming to the Commons House, that House received from you Majesty a gracious message, that you would alwayes have care of their priviledges as of your own Prerogative; of the safety of their persons as of your own children; That which we expect, which will give us assurance that you have no thought, but of peace and justice to your People,

must

must bee some reall effect of your goodnesse to them, in granting those things, which the present necessity of the Kingdom doe enforce us to desire: And in the first place, that your Majesty will bee graciously pleased to put from you, those wicked and mischievous Counsellors, which have caused all these dangers and distractions, and to continue your own Residence and the Princes neer London, and the Parliament; which wee hope will be a happy beginning of contentment, and confidence betwixt your Majesty and your People, and bee followed with many succeeding blessings, of Honour and Greatnesse to your Majesty, and of Security and Prosperity to them.

The Additionall Reasons.

THe Lords and Commons have commanded us to present unto your Majesty this further Addition to their former Declaration.

That your Majesties return, and continuance neer the Parliament, is a matter in their apprehension of so great necessity and importance towards the preservation of your Royall Person and your Kingdoms, that they cannot think they have discharged their duties in the single expression of their desire, unlesse they add some further Reasons to back it with.

I. *Your Majesties absence will cause men to believe, that it is out of design to discourage the undertakers, and hinder the other Provisions for raising money for defense of Ireland.*

II. *It will very much hearten the Rebels there, and disaffected persons in this Kingdom, as being an evidence, and effect of the icalousie and division betwixt your Majesty and your people.*

III. *That it will much weaken and withdraw the affection of the Subject from your Majesty, without which a Prince is deprived of his chiefest strength and lustre, and left naked to the greatest dangers and miseries that can be imagined.*

IIII. *That it will invite and encourage the Enemies of our Religion and the State, in forraign parts, to the attempting and acting of their evill designs and intentions towards us.*

V. *That it causeth a great interruption in the proceedings of Parliament.*

These considerations threaten so great danger to your Majesties Person, and to all your Dominions, that as your Majesties great Councell, they hold it necessary to represent to You, this their faithfull Advice, that so, whatsoever followeth, they may be excused before God and Man.

His Majesties Speech to the Committee, the 9. of March, 1641. when they presented the Declaration of both Houses of Parliament, at New-market.

I Am confident that you expect not I should give you a speedy Answer to this Strange and unexpected Declaration. And I am sorry (in the distraction of this Kingdom) you should think this way of address to be more convenient, than that proposed by my Message of the 20. of January last to both Houses.

As concerning the grounds of your Fears and Jealousies, I will take time to answer particularly, and doubt not but I shall doe it to the satisfaction of all the World. God, in his good time, will, I hope, discover the secrets and bottoms of all Plots and Treasons; and then I shall stand right in the eyes of all My People. In the mean time, I must tell you, That I rather expected a Vindication for the imputation laid on me in Master Pym's Speech, than that any more generall Rumours and Discourses should get credit with you.

For my Fears and Doubts, I did not think they should have been thought so groundlesse or triviall, while so many seditious Pamphlets and Sermons are looked upon, and so great Tumults are remembered, unpunished, unacquiesced into: I still confesse my Fears, and call God to witnesse, That they are greater for the true Protestant Profession, My People and Lawes, than for My own Rights or Safety; though I must tell you, I conceive that none of these are free from danger.

What would you have? Have I violated your Lawes? Have I denyed to passe any one Bill for the ease and security of My Subjects? I doe not ask you what you have done for Me.

Have any of my People been transport with Fears and Apprehensions? I have offered as free and generall a Pardon, as your selves can devise. All this considered, There is a Judgement from Heaven upon this Nation, if these distractions continue.

God to deal with mee and mine, as all my thoughts and intentions are upright for the maintenance of the true Protestant Profession, and for the Observation and Preservation of the Lawes of this Land: And, I hope, God will blesse and assist those Lawes for My preservation.

As for the Additionall Declaration, you are to expect an Answer to it, when you shall receive the Answer to the Declaration it self.

FINIS.

